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NOTES

THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

It is universally understood that Canada is rounding into full nationhood in almost every particular. The fruits of confederation are ripening rapidly; in fact, it will not be long before the danger of blemish will be upon her, if indeed it has not already appeared in some quarters. The last fifteen years especially have brought great advances in the industry, commerce, agriculture, banking, finance, and social conditions of Canada; on the other hand, problems of great importance are presenting themselves to the Canadian public for solution. Yet this situation fraught with great opportunity and with great peril will no doubt be met with the ability of farseeing statesmen and certainly with the faith of the new nation that has been almost bursting herself with prosperity.

The most recent evidence of this national development, and of the feeling of nationality that accompanies it, lies in the formation of the Canadian Political Science Association for "the encouragement of the investigation and study of governmental, economic, and social problems." This association was formed during the meetings of the various associations of like character at Boston in December, 1912, at which time an unusually large number of Canadians were present. Dr. Adam Shortt, of the Civil Service Commission, was elected president, and Professor O. D. Skelton, of Queen's University, secretary-treasurer.

It might be explained that the term *political science* has in Canada a broad meaning corresponding to that of the term *social science* in the United States and elsewhere. But, as the term *social science* is not yet respectable in Canada, a "back to Aristotle" interpretation of the word *political* was adopted. No doubt under the circumstances the choice of the name was wise. It may, then, be understood that the Political Science Association proposes to deal, in a spirit entirely non-partisan, with all matters governmental, economic, and social; at least with anything with a respectable name within the field outlined.

The first annual meeting of the association, held September 4-6 at Ottawa, the Canadian capital, proved an unexpected success. At this first meeting a number of topics were discussed; at later meetings a smaller range of subjects will receive attention.

The opening session was favored by addresses from the Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden, P.C., Dr. Adam Shortt, and Dr. Andrew McPhail, of

Montreal. Party politics received the attention of the evening. The later sessions essayed the discussion of several topics. "Commission Government versus Boards of Control in City Government" was the theme at one session. Professor Munro, of Harvard University, declared in favor of a return to the English system of undivided power and responsibility from which the Canadian cities have wandered, following Toronto, which first borrowed that malefactor among institutions, the board of control, from the United States.

Agricultural credit was discussed in two papers, one by Mr. C. Hill-Tout, of Vancouver, and the other by Mr. J. A. Stevenson, of Winnipeg. Mr. Hill-Tout laid emphasis on the needed restoration of the balance between agriculture and industry and deplored the present tendency to relegate agriculture to the list of back-number pursuits. He dealt particularly with agricultural conditions in British Columbia where the pursuit of agriculture is relatively neglected, despite the wonderful opportunities. Governmental assistance, in the form of encouragement to co-operation, to agricultural credit, and to agricultural education, was urged. Mr. Stevenson stressed the importance of agricultural credit systems, and indicated some possible measures as well as what is already planned in the province of Saskatchewan.

A paper by Dr. James Bonar on Canada's balance of trade declared that Canada's unfavorable balance (amounting to \$200,000,000) was still healthy. This amount Canada has been borrowing from England, but England has not been supplying the goods that have been purchased from the funds thus supplied. The United States alone sends to Canada an amount sufficiently in excess of Canadian exports to account for this sum. Dr. Bonar draws the conclusion that the American trade is financing the English loans. Canada uses English money with which to buy American goods.

Mr. E. F. NewCombe, of Montreal, discussed "The Working of the Lloyd-George Insurance Act," and Mr. B. M. Stewart described the housing conditions of our immigrant workers.

The most interesting paper of the meeting in many respects was that by Mr. R. H. Coats, of the Labor Department at Ottawa, on "The Rôle of the Middleman." Mr. Coats has no doubt as to the economic function of the middleman, but this usefulness is no justification for the evident spread between the price paid the producer and the price required of the retailer. Sometimes this spread is due to the opportunity that the middleman has, especially in times of rising prices, to take more than seems necessary. More often it is due to lack of organization in the

marketing of produce, and, in fact, in the whole distributing system. Examples of good and bad marketing methods and of the effect on prices were given in a satisfactorily conclusive way. There is no doubt that Mr. Coats has presented a point of view that will receive the attention of a larger body of economists in the near future, especially at this time when economic organization and business efficiency are receiving so much attention. Certainly it has stimulated an interest sufficient to give impetus to the newly formed Canadian association.

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WASHINGTON NOTES

PROGRESS IN BANKING LEGISLATION

Further important progress in developing a banking and currency measure has been made by the passage in the House of Representatives on September 18 of H.R. bill 7837 (63d Cong., 1st sess.). This is the bill originally introduced in June last in the House by Hon. Carter Glass, the chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee of that body. The bill in question, between the time of its introduction and its passage, went through a lengthy period of investigation and discussion at the hands of the Banking and Currency Committee, but suffered no substantial alterations, in any of its fundamental aspects during the time it was in progress through the committee, the subsequent caucus, or the House. It, therefore, contains practically the same features that were enumerated in a former issue of this Journal (July), and they need no further recapitulation. It is worth while, however, to make note of the report accompanying the bill which was introduced on September 9 (report No. 69, 63d Cong., 1st sess.) In this document, the recent history of the currency and banking situation is surveyed, and the proposed bill is carefully analyzed with a view to indicating how its several provisions would operate. On one point the report shows a considerable amount of light and clarifies a situation that has been much obscured by conflicting outgivings proceeding from a variety of sources. This is the section of the bill (sec. 20) which deals with the shifting of existing bank reserves from the present correspondent banks to the new reserve banks to be established under the terms of the act. On this topic the following analysis of the statistics and other